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## REVIEWS AND NOTES

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF OLD HIGH GERMAN. By Lionel Armitage. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1911. 8vo. pp. 264. I map.

This product of English scholarship is not as devoid of genuine merit as the scant attention bestowed upon it by American philologists would imply. In fact, its appearance in the same year that saw the publication of the third and fourth edition of Braune's *Althochdeutsche Grammatik*—which has already been reviewed elsewhere in this periodical, XI, 269 ff.—is on the whole fraught with as much significance to English-speaking students of Germanic philology as that justly appreciated classic authority.

Extensive comparison between the two works is precluded by the difference of motives that lay behind their making. The task Braune set himself was the faithful portrayal of the historical development of the High German dialect between the eighth and eleventh centuries, with especial emphasis, however, on the literary monuments of the ninth century. It is due to these delimitations that, on the one hand, the various glosses are not systematically enough drawn upon for reference and, on the other, the grammatical treatment is restricted to specifically Old High German phenomena and, in comparatively rare instances, to corroborating Gothic evidences. In a word, his treatise is one of the facts observed, not of comments and annotations as well.

As against this, Armitage's book contains much more than its title promises. It is an introduction not only to Old High German but to the study of Germanic philology by way of that dialect, based on scientific and historical principles, agreeably—as the preface states—to the previous training of the English student. Regarded from these linguistic and pedagogical viewpoints alone, the new work deserves more consideration than it seems thus far to have received.—The author presents his subject-matter in two parts. Part One treats of the bibliography, orthography and pronunciation of OHG. and contains a highly commendable feature in the inclusion of paradigmatic material. Chapter I. of Part Two represents the Indo-European element *par excellence*, in that it furnishes phonetic definitions and a detailed account of the First Sound-shift, Verner's law and the various combinative sound-changes that form the necessary presuppositions of OHG. linguistic study. Chapters II. and III. trace Pre-Germanic consonantism into its later equivalents, including

such characteristic changes as the High German Sound-shift and Notker's law of Initial Consonants. Both Chapter III. and the following one, which gives a corresponding discussion of vowel developments, are summed up in convenient tabular reviews. Three other divisions are devoted one each to the Verbal system, the Nominal and Pronominal system, and to Numerals and Adverbs. The book concludes with a serviceable table of OHG. verbs and an index verborum.

The benefits that the student might derive from this arrangement are, however, to a slight extent minimized by disadvantages of one sort or another. A few considerations that occurred to the present reviewer in the course of reading may be set down at this point.

(a) There are to be found in the book certain errors of misstatement that militate to just such a degree against its accuracy. Thus, on p. 9 the Germanic languages are misrepresented as having *possessed* a fixed accent. This, of course, is incorrect: the *acquisition* of a fixed accent of the dynamic character is just one of the few peculiarities that differentiate Germanic from her sister dialects. A short account here of Indo-European stress would not have been amiss. Again, on p. 39 the formulation of Verner's law as "when initial unless in unaccented syllable, prefix or second part of a noun compound or immediately preceded by the accent in IG. the voiceless spirants are retained, but in all other cases these voiceless spirants become voiced" will be admitted to be scientifically accurate, but certainly obscure and cumbersome as well.

(b) Evidences of inconclusiveness force themselves upon the reader's attention that impair the serviceableness of the portions affected. On p. 11 and 231 the bibliographical matter is devoid of the customary information as to edition, date and place. This circumstance renders it worthless for working purposes, especially as it is designed for the guidance of beginners. The survey, too, of the OHG. literary remains on p. 11 is not sufficiently illuminating. One does not wish for an extended *catalogue raisonné* of the various MSS. such as is given, for instance, in Bülbring's *Altenglisches Elementarbuch*, but it is reasonable to expect a few words of extraneous comment as well as an acceptable dating appended to each. On p. 28 Armitage states that the order of the stages of the First Sound-shift was as there adopted. No explanation for this is given; and yet the beginner might well wish to know upon what reasons this dictum is based. Helpful references are sometimes omitted, as when on p. 177 the discussion of the confusion of case-forms neglects to cite Brugmann's *Grundriss* II. or allude to the convenient little *Über-*

sichtstabellen of Wood. The classification of *swerien* [*s(w)uor*, *s(w)uorum*, *gi-sworan*] among the graded verbs of the fourth class on p. 223 and also on p. 161 among those of the sixth is ill-advised. For the rest, the reviewer fails to find a satisfactory treatment of Umlaut-phenomena.

Beyond such limits the contents of the book is not amenable to criticism. The author frankly avoids putting forth any theories of his own, but aims solely at an attractive presentation of the material culled from other sources. Indo-European students will therefore find no innovation in Armitage's work, save a hopeful tendency away from the current hybrid terminology toward a consistent English nomenclature. Vocalic and Consonant declension is surely more accurate than the meaningless Strong and Weak; similarly Graded and Non-graded—the term Vowel-gradation is familiar—are more descriptive of the two classes of verbs.<sup>1</sup> However, as far as the main intention of the book is concerned, viz. to locate and localize for the English-speaking student OHG. in all its Indo-European bearings, it seems to be defeated in part by the fact that the author attempts to be exhaustive within a comparatively small compass. Armitage's Introduction is clearly not elementary in the sense of Sweet's Primer or even some of Wright's Historical Grammars; its superabundance of information, whilst gratifying in the thoroughgoing handling of such parts as Grimm's law and the Second-shift, must be disconcerting to the beginner before whom it is placed as a practical handbook.

None of the foregoing remarks, however, should be interpreted as detracting from the general value of the work. It may not, because of some decisive defects, be fitting as a beginner's book, but taken intrinsically and in its totality, it makes an impression that is quite favorable—especially since it represents, in the English tongue, the first extensive comparative treatment of Old High German—and bespeaks its usefulness as a book of reference in any philological library.

Undoubtedly there was room for a work of this kind. The real desideratum, however, in the Old High German field is, at present, not the multiplication of grammatical manuals. Good work is necessary in at least two other directions: the one is more pedagogical, the other purely philological. By the pedagogical I mean the complete absence of paleographical apparatus to bring the student of OHG. in closer, first-hand

<sup>1</sup> It is questionable, at the same time, whether "Lengthening of Consonants" to render *Consonantendehung* is more expressive to English-speaking students than the term "Gemination" found in Wright and elsewhere.

contact with the linguistic monuments of the period, to visualise before him in a form more vivid than the often unsympathetic text of the printed book ever can, the *ensemble* of the literature under his consideration. Some attempt should be made thus to provide for a less expensive collection of specimens and reproductions than is, for instance, the excellent Facsimile-Mappe of Frau Magda Enneccerus (*Die ältesten deutschen Sprachdenkmäler*, Frankfurt, 1897.), perhaps in a student-edition of more accessibility. A face-to-face arrangement of alternate text and facsimile in a book like Braune's or Mansion's *Lesebuch*—the latter has wisely prefaced two sample pages of the *Hildebrandslied*—has also for some time seemed desirable to the writer of these lines. That the philological interpretation of ancient texts should really go hand in hand with such illustrative work, requires no brief at this place. It only needs to be emphasized that, for purposes of serious philology, reproductive material of this kind would be the highest possible stimulant to our University men to pursue their studies more intensively, not to speak of the probable excursions prompted by the collateral use of the MS. texts into the realms of MS. preparation and its various cultural aspects.

The other urgent need is, of course, an all-embracing syntax of Old High German. The worker in this field, particularly the student, when it comes to moot points of syntax, is at the mercy of his imagination. The existing sources of information are severally unsatisfactory. Wilmanns' *Grammatik* is not specifically OHG., nor Erdmann-Mensing's *Grundzüge der deutschen Syntax*. Erdmann's great work on *Otfrid* is, again, restricted to that writer alone. The fourth volume of Grimm, rich in inspiration, is yet invalidated in much of its abundant material by the evidence of investigations since the date of its publication. Placed side by side with Streitberg's 95 pages of Gothic syntax, Mansion's 9 pages of OHG. matter in the same series are insignificant and superficial. In this respect Old High German is quite as deficient as is Anglo-Saxon. There exist quite a few helpful treatises of the type of Delbrück's *Synkretismus* and multitudes of dissertations devoted to the marked peculiarities of the various monuments,<sup>2</sup> but all this is a closed field to the beginner and in a great many instances beyond the reach even of the more advanced student. The bridging over of the remaining

<sup>2</sup> It is needless to add that there is a sufficiently large room for important corrections and new viewpoints. The reviewer's recent monograph on "The Dative of Agency; a Chapter of Indo-European Case-syntax" might be referred to as one example of what may yet be done in a broad way for the amplification of our knowledge as to the case-functions of the Germanic dialects.

*lacunae* and the speedy codification of all the syntactic material in OHG. is, in the writer's opinion, one of the most pressing needs of present-day Germanic philology.

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ERNST LAHNSTEIN, *ETHIK UND MYSTIK IN HEBBELS WELTANSCHAUUNG*; (Bruns, Friedrich, Friedrich Hebbel und Otto Ludwig. Ein Vergleich ihrer Ansichten über das Drama; Lewin, Dr. Ludwig, Friedrich Hebbel. Beitrag zu einem Psychogramm) sämtlich: Berlin-Steglitz, 1913.

Drei Hebbel-Schriften, alle aus demselben Verlage und 1913 erschienen! Und das ist nicht etwa alles, was das Jahr auf diesem Gebiete gezeitigt hat. Schon das ganze letzte Jahrzehnt ist in der Tat ein gesegnetes für die Hebbel-Literatur gewesen. Hebbel-Schriften sind wie Pilze aus der Erde emporgeschossen, und während dieser Hochflut ist bisher wenig erschienen, was nicht im Tone unbedingter Huldigung dahinfließt. Doch alle sind Bausteine zu dem Ruhmestempel, den man Hebbel errichtet. Dabei ist aber wohl die Frage am Platze, ob dieser Hebbel-Enthusiasmus ein ganz gesunder ist, ob die plötzlich erkannte Bedeutung Hebbels dieser Begeisterung auch wirklich entspricht. Diese intensive Hebbel-Forschung hat manches Nachteilige; besonders hat sie zahlreiche Wiederholungen dessen zutage gefördert, was für diesen eigenartigen Dichter charakteristisch ist, und der Gewinn an wirklich Neuem ist in vielen Fällen nur gering. Auch die vorliegenden Monographien haben mehr Wert durch das "Wie" als durch das "Was" des Gebotenen. Das Thema von Lahnsteins kleiner Schrift: "Ethik und Mystik in Hebbels Weltanschauung" ist vielleicht das schwierigste von obigen dreien, doch der Verfasser ist demselben gerecht geworden. Er schildert in sehr ansprechender Weise die mystischen Elemente in Hebbels Wesen und deren Anteil an der Entwicklung seiner Weltanschauung. Als läuternden Faktor bezeichnet er die ethischen Kräfte, die in Hebbels Natur schlummerten, aber erst ziemlich spät zum Durchbruch kamen. Der Umstand, dass sich Lahnstein bereits eingehend mit Hebbels Frühzeit beschäftigt hat, ist ihm sehr zustatten gekommen. Er geht davon aus, dass der Dichter, wie Hebbel selbst erklärte, unbedingt den Menschen voraussetzt. Er zeigt uns den niederdrückenden Einfluss, den Hebbels Jugenderfahrungen auf ihn ausübten, und den Konflikt, in welchen der mächtige Lebensdrang, dem die unerbittliche Not der Ver-